.V. 571.

The Substance of a

DISCOURSE

BEING

An Incouragement for *PROTESTANTS*, or a Happy Prospect of Glorious Success: With Exhortations to be Valiant against our Enemies, in opposing the Bloody Principles of *PAPISTS*, and Errors of *Popery*, &c.

Occasionally on the *Protestants* Victory over the

FRENCH and *IRISH* Papists

BEFORE

London-Derry,

In Raising that Desperate SIEGE.

By Mr. *WALKER* Minister, and Governor of the City.

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Entred according to Order.

A Glorious Proſpect of the *Proteſtants* Happineſs, &c.

Judges VII. 20.

The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.

WE may through all the Courſe of Holy Scripture, plainly behold that when the Almighty deſigned to work out a Deliverance to his People, he made them ſenſible that it was not ſo much the Arms of Fleſh, as his immediate power that ſaved them. The *Iſraelites* at the time that God raiſed up *Gideon* the Son of *Joash* to be an Inſtrument in his Hand of ſaving them, were oppreſſed by the *Midianites* & *Amalakites*, a cruel and waſtful People that ſpared no means that force or fraud could invent to vex them, and lay their Country deſolate, to draw them away to Idolatry, and the Worſhip of ſtrange Gods, which their Fathers had not known; and leaſt they ſhould ſeem to attribute the Victory to Multitudes, and not give the ſole Glory to the God of Battles; this great Captain had an expreſs Command, to try firſt their Courage and Reſolution, and after that proving too many, they were ſelected at the Water-Brook, where three hundred only were choſen, and with that ſmall number, the mighty Army was overthrown, deſtroyed, broken, and confounded at firſt onſet by the breaking of Pitchers, & ſounding of

Trumpets, and crying, *The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon*, Judges 7. 20. *Let but the Lord arise*, (says Holy *David*) *and his Enemies shall be scattered*: (And again) *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble: Therefore will we not fear though the earth be moved, and though the Mountains be carried into the midst of the Sea; though the Waters thereof roar, and be troubled*, Psal. 46. 1,2,3. We find that when *Samaria* was Besieged, and even Famine raged in the City to a degree, that a Woman was forced to eat the Fruits of her Womb, when all visible means failed, and an Insulting Enemy every day expected to enter the City, and bring it to final Desolation; that only a noise being heard in the Hills and Mountains, raised the Siege, and gave abundance of plenty to the besieged, according as the Prophet had foretold. And *Senacharibs* Hoast trusting in the Arm of the Flesh, and the multitude of Horses and Chariots, found themselves insensibly defeated by the Revenging Sword of the Destroying Angel, falling dead by the mighty stroak of an Invisible power, whose force they felt, but knew no way to resist, or fly from, till Soome of them were setter'd in the Chains of Death. And upon consideration of these, and the like Deliverances, Holy *David* says to comfort himself, and his people, *viz. The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge; come, behold the Work of the Lord, what desolation he hath made in the earth, he maketh Wars to cease unto the end of the earth, he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder, and burneth the Chariot with fire: Be still, and know that I am God, I will be exalted amongst the Heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of* Jacob *is our refuge*, Psal. 46. 7,8,9,10,11. For although God makes Man for the most part the Instrument in his hand, the more visibly to bring about his purposes; yet without the Operation of Almighty power and Wisdom, Mens Devices are brought to nought, for here we find, that when *Gideon* came to behold the Camp of the enemy, *The* Midianites, *and* Amalakites, *and all the Children of the East lay along in the Valley like Grashoppers for*

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multitude, and their Camels were without number, as the Sand of the Sea, Judges 7. 12. Yet this great Army that had so long been the wasteful terrour of the Country, was put into such a fear at the cry of *the Sword of the Lord, and Gideon*, that they were utterly confounded, and knew not what they did; for as we find it in ver. 21, 22. of the foregoing Chapter, viz. *And they stood every man in his place round about the Camp, and all the Hoast ran, and cryed, and fled, and the three hundred blew the Trumpets, and the Lord set every mans Sword against his fellow even throughout all the Hoast, and the Hoast fled*, &c. By this we may see, it was more through fear and distraction they were broken, than through any slaughter the three hundred *Israelites* were capable of making amongst so great a company of men. *David* incouraged by God, pursued the *Amalakites* that burnt *Ziklag*, and with four hundred Men fell upon those that had taken the spoil, and with four hundred Men defeated their great Army, recovering what ever had been taken away. *Barach* and *Deborah* defeated *Jabin*'s great Hoast, destroying it together with *Sisera* its Captain, who fell in *Jael*'s Tent. *Sampson* with his single Arm, routed at sundry times, the Powers of the *Philistines*; so that we see that God confounds strength with weakness, for when men presume too much on the Arm of Flesh, they frequently deceive themselves; and in the midst of their security are overthrown: Therefore let a good Christian consider that his strength is in the Lord, and if God be on his side, he need not be afraid, though danger beset him round about; but be comforted, and made valiant by the words of the Kingly Prophet, *viz. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear; the Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid: When the wicked, even mine enemies, and my foes came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell: Though an Hoast should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear, though War shall arise against me, in this will I be confident*, Psal. 27. 1, 2, 3. This ought to be the confidence, and courageous resolution of every Christian, especially Soldiers, who carry their

Lives

Lives in their hands, and are said to live on the brink of the Grave. Above all in a good Cause, and the defence of the Sacred Truth, when their Religion is in danger, and the enemy seeks not to gain a Dominion over their bodys, but over their Souls, to obscure the light of the Gospel, and cloud a Kingdom in darkness and ignorance: Let them take example by the valiant *Maccabees*, who when they beheld their holy things prophaned and trampled under foot by an Idolatrous people, their Altar polluted, and their Sanctuarys in danger to be defiled; they took up the Sword of *Gideon*, and fought more for their Religion than for their Lives nor was the Sword of the Lord wanting to give them success over their Enemies, and to redeem their bleeding Country from the destruction and desolation it groaned under; nor may we spare to come nearer home, and find innumerable instances of God's raising up *Gideons* to save these Kingdoms, not only from Barbarous Nations, who in early times have invaded them but from a Papal Tyranny, from Plots, and Conspiracys that have laboured to make their glory set in blood and ruine. *Henry* the Eight was raised up to scatter the *Midianites*, and *Amalekites* of *Rome*, whose Idolatries and Superstitions had infected our *Israel*, and whose Pride and Luxury had laid waste her pleasant places, and destroyed the good things of the Land: This, I say, was the Sword of the Lord, and of *Gideon*, for God made this Prince an Instrument in his hand: This was the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our Eyes, and in the next place he raised up good *Josiah* in the person of *Edward* the sixth, and under him gave us the purity and light of the Gospel in its primitive lustre, brighter than the Morning-Star, and though after the death of this good Prince, he Withheld his Sword, and suffered us to be crushed under the merciless hands of our enemies; yet the Bloody Reign of Q. *Mary* once over, wherein our Adversaries displayed themselves in their true Colours, feasting Flames with Martyrs precious Blood, at such a Riotous profuseness, as no Barbarous Nation had equalled, He heard the Groans of his suf-

ſuffering people, and ſent us a deliverance, *The Sword of the Lord, and of* Gideon, was again on our ſide, as appeared in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, who was valliant for the truth, and in ſpite of all the Conſpiracies to raiſe a Rebellion, or bring her to an untimely end, by Poiſon, Daggers, and many pernicious Devices; ſhe ſtood the *Gideon*, or *Deborah* of our Land, and though *Spain* fill'd the Seas with floating Caſtles to deſtroy this flouriſhing Kingdom, yet the Almighty by a ſmall number manifeſtly bared his Arm to ſave us, and ruine thoſe that were too confident in the Arm of Fleſh, not only deſtroying that huge Armado, but routing ſuch Forces, as the *Spaniards* ſent into *Ireland*, to aſſiſt the Bloody *Iriſh Papiſts*, in Rebellion againſt their lawful Soveraign, committing ſuch Cruelties as are too tedious here to mention, and although in the fruſtration of their Plots and Devices they might well have perceived the immediate hand of Heaven, protecting this great and proſperous Queen; yet ſo far were they infatuated, or tranſported with inſeperable Malice and Revenge, that though their Attempts coſt many of them their lives, yet no ſooner was the wiſe *Proteſtant* Prince King *James* the Firſt advanced to the Throne, but they went to exalt him in a blaſt to the Skies, had not their *Powder Plot* been diſcovered by the Divine Hand of Providence, who blaſted it; all which well conſidered, may make us confeſs with the Royal Prophet, viz. *We have thought of thy loving kindneſs, O God, in the midſt of thy Temple, according to thy Name, O God, ſo is thy praiſe unto the ends of the earth; thy right hand is full of righteouſneſs: Let Mount Sion rejoyce, let the Daughter of Judah be glad, becauſe of thy judgment*, Pſal. 49. verſe 9, 10, 11.

And now without tears of compaſſion, we cannot reflect on the Popiſh Cruelty in the poor Kingdom of *Ireland*; in the Reign of King *Charles* the Firſt, *Anno* 1641. when without any provocation, Armed with Helliſh Rage, and the natural Cruelty of a Papiſt, they by inhumane Torments,

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Murthered no leſs than 200000 *Engliſh Proteſtants*, of all Ages and Sex; inſomuch that the Dead Bodies not being ſuffered by the Prieſts to be buried; Created a Contageon, and in ſome meaſure took revenge on the Murtherers; and what can we think? but at this day a *Papiſt* is a *Papiſt* ſtill, where even the Principle of Religion inſtills a kind of Fiercenes and Barbarity into their Nature: Nay, if we reflect what in a few Months they have done, what better can be expected, if we conſider the Spoil, Plunder, Ravagements, and Deſolations the *French* and *Iriſh* in Arms have made, regarding neither Oaths, Promiſes, nor nearneſs of Relation; with a deſire utterly to Root the the *Engliſh* out of the Kingdom, with a further deſign of carrying on their Miſchevious Enterprizes againſt the *Proteſtant* Religion; In general, it is time for *Proteſtants* to become Valiant for the Truth, and bold as Lyons, not only for their Religion, but temporal intereſt; the preſervation of their Wives and Children, from Murthers, Rapes, and Deflowrings, and all manner of Violence and Wickedneſs: to ſtand as Bulwarks againſt the Rapid Inundation of Antichriſtan Tyrany. Let us conſider that the Fowls of the Air, and the Beaſts of the Forreſt, ſtand in the defence of their own lives, and the lives of their young Ones, with ſuch Weapons as Nature has afforded them: And ſhall not men in ſuch a caſe pluck up their Spirits, and redouble their Courage, ſince the Almighty has of late been ſo favourable in giving us, even by Miracle, a *Proteſtant* King and Queen to ſit upon the Throne, and ſo great a Proſpect of a through deliverance; we are here Members of the Church Militant: Let us not be aſhamed or afraid of our profeſſion, when maintaining our Chriſtian Warfare in a good conſcience, and a juſt cauſe, we make our way to the Church, which is Triumphant, where God ſhall wipe away all tears from our Eyes, *And there ſhall be no more Death, neither ſorrow nor crying, neither ſhall there be any more pain, for the former things paſs away*, Rev. 21, 4. Though never ſo many Storms and Tempeſts threa-

threaten; yet a good Christian ought not to be dismayed, though in a time, even when danger does beset them: yet it is required, they should Humble themselve before their Maker, and Rely on him, who is able to save to the utmost, all that trust in him: For indeed, Sin is that which provokes him to with-hold his mercy, and bring calamities on Nations, and Kingdoms; it was always well with the seed of *Jacob*, when they cleave fast to the Rock of their Salvation; but when they grew Regardless, he gave them up to the oppressing Nations, who grieved his chosen Heritage, for as 'tis said Psal 18. ver. 25, 26. 27. viz. *With the Merciful, thou wilt shew thy self Merciful; and with an upright man, thou wilt shew thy self upright; with the pure, thou wilt shew thy self pure; with the froward, thou wilt shew thy self froward: For thou wilt save the afflicted people, but will bring down high looks.* Nineveh humbling her self in Sackcloth and Ashes before the Lord, was saved from impendent Wrath, when Stubborn *Sodom*, and Impenitent *Gomorrah* sunk in Sulpherous fire; let us turn then to the Lord with our whole hearts, and sing praise unto our deliverer, that our Enemies, and all those that seek to hurt us, may fall before us: 'Tis a good conscience, and an assurance in gods mercy's that makes men valiant; *Abraham* on this score persued the Kings, and Rescued his Brother *Lot*, &c. out of their hands: *David* in this assurance undauntedly marched against the mighty Champion of the *Philistims*; and with inconsiderable Weapons, as knowing God saves neither by Spear nor Shield, no more than by weak means, when he resolves to manifest his power; or intends to save, he overcame the man that had so long defied the Armies of *Israel*: For when the great *Jehovah* was designed to show his last Judgment upon *Phareh*; and his pursuing Host in the Red Sea, and *Israel* cryed out for fear they were only commanded to stand still, and see the Salvation of the Lord, and they even without contributing any help of their own, found themselves not only secured from the

danger they feared, and a little before had threatned them, but saw their desire upon their Enemies; the Element heard the voice of its Creator and returned with violence to let the stubborn monarch know, that the highest Rules in the Kingdoms of men, in whose hands are all the Kingdoms of the Earth, and all the breath of life. There is a Sword of the Lord, and a Sword of Man; against the first there is no prevailing, but the latter is weak, if the first be wanting: God if he pleases can arm all the Elements to fight for his Servants, as he did the Hail in the time of *Joshua*, by which there fell more than by the Swords of the *Israelites*; or inclose his people with Fiery Camps of Armed Angels, as he did *Elisha*, when his life was sought for by the *Assyrians*. Trust in the Lord, and he will be to his Servants a Wall of defence, and a strong Tower, a Buckler, a Shield, and a mighty Deliverer; who has power to do what he pleases: In Heaven, and Earth, whose Will is Fate, and whose Decrees are irresistable, and Irreversable: Let us but call upon him sincerely, with a true heart and unfeigned lips, and he will hear us, and deliver us out of all our trouble: Let us not then be afraid of their terrour that seek to harm us, but assuredly rest secure in his protection, whose mercys are over all the Works of his Creation, and he will keep us from the Arrows that fly by Night, and the Shafts, though go abroad by day the Adversary shall have no advantage over us: Therefore let us acquit our selves like men, and not faint, or grow weary: Let fear fly our Breasts, and let us arm our selves with Courage in a good Cause; and consider that the God of Battles, the Lord of Hosts is the disposer of all things, and if the Lord be with us, who shall be against us, and prosper, for there is a Sword of the Lord, and a Sword of *Gideon*.

Thus by extraordinary means does the Almighty save, when he bares his Arm to make his power known to the Sons of Men; then happy are all they that trust in him, for they shall never be confounded, their Enemies shall come out

out one way, but flee seven; the *Lord* shall draw a Sword after them, and they shall be scattered, even from H[illegible]n shall they be discomfited, and scattered o'er the face o[illegible] earth, as in *Judges* 3. 2. *They fought from Heaven, [illegible] in their courses fought against* Sisera. If Heaven be [illegible] side in vain is the Combination of man, for who is able to stand before that mighty God, whose very looks drieth up the deep, and whose wrath maketh the Mountains to melt, before whose Majesty *Job* confesseth himself to fail and tremble, like one in a stormy Tempest, and that his fear was so great that he was not able to bear it; nor can his hand be shortened, that he will not save those that stand for his truth, such as are valiant for the promotion of God's Honour, are said to fight the *Lord*'s Battle; that is, he owns them to be his Soldiers, and he puts power and strength into their hands, as he did into his Servant *Joshuah*'s when he made the Heavenly bodies contrary to the course of nature, obey a Mortal Voice, the Sun and Moon stood still till his people had accomplished their desire upon their Enemies, as we find it in *Joshua*, 10. 13. and when *Moses* held but up his hand the *Israelites* prevailed, for there is nothing too hard for the *Lord*, when he designs to bring about his purposes: *I called on the Lord in my distress* (says Holy *David*) *the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place; the Lord is on my side, I will not fear what man can do unto me: The Lord taketh my part with them that help me, therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me; it is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in Princes, all Nations compassed me about, but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them*, Psal. 118. v. 5,6,7,8,9,10. Thus we may behold, how a good cause puts life into the Soul, and makes the Spirit rise to the extreamest height of valour, banishing the image of fear by a confident assurance of success makes men bold as *Lyons*, and unwary in their undertakings. This made *Nehemiah* courageous for the House of God, and for his Sanctuary, when he caused the very Work-men to arm at their labour, having their Swords in their hands,

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even whilſt they were building, and repairing the City of *Jeruſalem*, to prevent and repel their treacherous Enemies who ſought always to ſurprize and bring them to deſtruction: Let us take Courage then, and faint not but acquit your ſelves like men.

A *Proteſtant* Prayer for our Deliverance from *Poꝑiſh Enemies*, and for future *Succeſs*.

O *Lord God, Holy and Glorious, in whoſe hands are all the ends of the earth, thou God of Battles on whom all Succeſs and Victory depends; look down upon us thy poor afflicted Servants, pardon our Sins, and paſs by the multitude of our Tranſgreſſions; ſave us, ſave us, O Lord, from the Malice and Hatred of our Implacable Enemys, defeat their Plots and confound their Devices, and let them know, neither Policy, nor the Arm of Fleſh can do any thing againſt thoſe thou art pleaſed to take into thy eſpecial care and protection; give us Courage to be valiant for thy revealed truth in the Goſpel of thy dear Son our ever bleſſed Lord and Saviour, and ever defend us from the Clouds and Miſts of Popery and Errour; give us hearts to fear, and Reverence thy Holy Name, that all our Actions and Undertakings may redound to thy Honour and Glory through Jeſus Chriſt: To whom with thee and thy Holy Spirit, be all Power, Praiſe, and Dominion, World without end.* Amen.

F I N I S.